MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Monday, July 28, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – Room C445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair

Rep. Ben C. Ferry, House Chair

Sen. Gene Davis

Sen. Mark B. Madsen

Sen. Michael G. Waddoups

Rep. James R. Gowans

Rep. Kory M. Holdaway

Rep. Carol Spackman Moss

Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Members Excused:

Sen Mike Dmitrich

Staff Present:

Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst

Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel

Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Ferry called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

2. Insurance Department Regulation of the WIN Association

Sen. Stephenson reported that the Utah Insurance Department filed a Cease and Desist Order against the W.I.N. Association (Association) for practicing insurance without a license. The Association has recently received a letter from the Department saying that when the Association can show proof that it has been accepted under the federal ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act), placing it under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Labor, the Cease and Desist Order will be withdrawn.

Mr. Michael Bianchi, CEO, W.I.N. Association, LLC, Association Group Health Plan, distributed a letter from J. Keith Stanley, Attorney, to the Utah Insurance Department, dated July 8, 2008, stating that the Association has met all of the ERISA requirements to be established as a self-funded group plan, and is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Utah Department of Insurance.

Mr. Bianchi provided an overview of the health plan provided by the Association to its members. He discussed affordability, comprehensive coverage, the focus on wellness, and responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. John "Mickey" Braun, Assistant Commissioner, Utah Insurance Department, restated that until the Association can provide proof from the U.S. Department of Labor that it is in compliance with ERISA requirements, the Cease and Desist Order will remain in effect.

3. Update: Statutes Granting Authority to Establish Criminal Penalties by Rule

Mr. Hunsaker presented a brief history of 2008 General Session H.B. 80, "Administrative Rule Penalty Amendments," as passed.

Ms. Allred noted the previously-expressed general preference of the Committee that the Legislature retain the authority to impose criminal penalties rather than delegate it to executive branch agencies. She observed some agencies feel their rules are too lengthy to be in statute, and that some agencies have stated the need for more flexibility for regulation than is allowed by annual legislative sessions. She also said the Committee may wish to request that agencies provide cites to federal statute or regulation that require state agencies to have authority to set criminal penalties by rule, or that make federal funding contingent on retaining that authority.

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Rep. Ferry said that a new bill draft will be presented to the Committee in October.

4. Committee Business

Future meetings were scheduled for August 11 and September 9, 2008.

5. Adjourn

Chair Ferry adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.